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PROGRAM NAME	Challenge Program	
GRADES SERVED	K-12	
CONTACT INFORMATION	Marcia Elliott Dir. of Curriculum and Instruction 263 East St. -- Box 147 Stafford Springs, CT 06076	
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DESCRIPTION	<p>In Stafford's newly developed Gifted Program model, our Gifted Program Specialist serves as facilitator, coordinator and coach for an array of services in and beyond the classroom across all grade levels. Students take advantage of different experiences in a choice of opportunities; this approach gives each student his or her own individualized program based on interests, abilities, need and task commitment. Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, the following six components will be phased in over a three-year period.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At the K-8 grade levels, the Gifted Program Specialist works with staff to provide curriculum modification and differentiation of instruction to match students' learning needs with performance expectations. Dimensions of instructional design to be considered for adjustment include: skill level, teacher guidance, instructional strategies, pacing, group size, projects, homework, and assessments.	

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DESCRIPTION	<p><i>Continued from page 1 of 2</i></p> <p>2. Throughout the district, school-based enrichment and acceleration activities are offered. These include speakers and field trips for general enrichment as well as enhancements to the curriculum such as honors, AP, and UCONN Co-op courses.</p> <p>3. Students in grades 4-8 have specialized enrichment opportunities such as Poets Academy and Inventors Academy after school or during non-instructional time during the school day.</p> <p>4. Small groups of students in grades 4 and 5 work with the Gifted Program Specialist on advanced research and product development tasks that are extensions of the curriculum. At the 6-8 grade levels, this component consists of independent study courses and projects with mentoring/coaching by the Gifted Program Specialist and other adults.</p> <p>5. For individually identified students with motivation to pursue special interests, mentorships are pursued through UCONN and community resources. Socio-emotional guidance and counseling services are also available in coordination with the district special services department.</p> <p>6. For students in grades 6-12, technology-based enrichment is available via Internet-based courses and resources for students with advanced skills in specific areas.</p>	